

## John Birch Society, Whose Leader Brands "Ike" Red Agent, Has Eagle River Chapter

Ten chapters of the John Birch society (including a chapter in Eagle River), founded by a man who believes that President Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist, have formed in Wisconsin in the last year.

This was reported in a recent story in the Milwaukee Journal written by Alex P. Dobish, who is a member of the Journal staff.

The apparent purpose of the society is to fight communism and influence American politics, Dobish reported and its members include leading citizens and industrialists in Wisconsin.

Dobish further reported that four branches have been formed in Milwaukee and one each in Wauwatosa, Green Bay, De Pere, Oshkosh, Appleton and Eagle River.

Mrs. John Rueber, 3014 S. Delaware ave., the wife of a

medical technician, is the Milwaukee area "co-ordinator" and spoke in Eagle River, helping set-up the chapter here.

The founder of the society is a wealthy, retired candy manufacturer, who lives in Bemont, Mass., Robert H. W. Welch, jr., 61, who is the author of "The Politician."

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**THE MILWAUKEE** Journal has obtained a copy of "The Politician", which is a manuscript of 302 pages, reproduced in book form. Leaders of the society have received copies from Welch with the admonition that the contents are "strictly confidential and for your eyes only."

The book tries to prove that Mr. Eisenhower is a dedicated conscientious agent of the Communist party.

It claims that Mr. Eisen-

hower's brother, Milton, is the president's superior in the party and that a dozen other highly placed government men are either outright Communists or tools of the party.

Former President Roosevelt, the book says, was unknowingly used by the party. Ex-President Truman was knowingly used, it continues. As for President Eisenhower, page 268 reads:

"In my own opinion the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

The Journal writer in his story said that neither Mrs. Rueber or Richard Johnson of Green Bay, who is in charge of upstate activities, would disavow the contents of "The Politician."

Mrs. Rueber said she had not reached a conclusion, adding, "I am not obligated to explain my

(Turn to JOHN BIRCH, Page 4)

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## JOHN BIRCH

(From Page One)

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THIS NEWSPAPER contacted H. S. Tuttle of Eagle River, who is a member and leader of the John Birch society movement in this community. Tuttle has been the Republican party chairman for Vilas county for several years, but recently submitted a letter of resignation.

Tuttle said he had not seen the book "The Politician", and that even if Mr. Welch had written the things he is now credited with, that he understood it dated back six years ago and was not current. Tuttle said he did not believe that President Eisenhower was a communist agent, and did not believe it was proper to find him guilty only due to association with people who may be suspected of being communists.

By coincidence Milton Eisenhower is staying at Land o' Lakes this week on vacation. This newspaper also contacted him and informed him of the statements by the leader of the John Birch society.

Eisenhower said he had never heard of the society and did express a surprised "migosh" when he was informed of the statements. He said he would not comment on it as he had a policy of never making political statements. He said if he had an opportunity to see and read "The Politician" he might say something about it.

Tuttle said he thought the current reference about various presidents being called communist was related to a letter, rather than a manuscript or book—and this letter was written about 1954.

MRS. RUEBER WANTED to know where the Milwaukee Journal had obtained a copy since the book was not supposed to be seen by "ordinary" society members or outsiders.

"Someone," she said, "broke a confidence."

Johnson said he shared the bulk of Welch's views, but shied away from hanging a Commun-

ist label on the President.

He said at first that he "had no idea" if Mr. Eisenhower was a Communist.

"I only know that if he is not, he might as well be," he said. "It is a moot question. The results of his administration are the same."

Later he added: "I don't think Eisenhower is bright enough to be permitted to be one of the party."

Welch's goal is a million members. He declined to say how many members were in the society nationally or in what states chapters had been organized. He said organization was going "nicely in Wisconsin," adding that Wisconsin was a "good, conservative state."

Asked if he still held the views expressed in "The Politician," he said he would not comment.

Welch describes the society in the "Blue Book," which he also wrote and which is distributed more widely among members than "The Politician."

"The men who join the John Birch society . . . are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway," he wrote.

"We are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource, to the fullest possible advantage that we can. Whenever and wherever, either through infiltration by the enemy or honest differences of opinion, that loyalty ceases to be sufficient to keep some fragment in line, we are not going to be in the position of having the society's work weakened by raging debates."

"WE ARE NOT going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme. Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out."

In the same book, Welch outlines his philosophy.

"Democracy, of course, in government or organization, as the Greeks and Romans found out, and as I believe . . . democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

The society is named after John Birch, an American army captain and fundamentalist Baptist minister, who allegedly was murdered by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J Day. The society was founded by Welch on December 9, 1953, in Indianapolis with the support of a small group of businessmen.

Under the Welch program, each chapter gets a monthly "John Birch Bulletin," which Welch edits. This usually gives the "assignment" for the month and lists suggested reading matter. Frequently there are suggestions for a letter writing campaign to congressmen on legislation.

Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women.

Although only high leaders know membership figures, the society is growing fast, according to law enforcement sources. Wisconsin has between 150 and 200 members, according to Johnson and Mrs. Rueber. They were enrolled in less than a year. This factor, plus the high level of influence and intelligence of members, disturbs law enforcement officials.

Welch writes skillfully and uses movies effectively of himself speaking in making his points.

He was born in Chowan county, North Carolina. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina; attended the United States Naval academy for two years and, finally, Harvard law school. He was in charge of sales and advertising of the firm that bears his name. He was vice-chairman of the Massachusetts Republican finance committee and, in 1950, a candidate for the lieutenant governor's post on the Republican ticket.

# Group Branding Ike as Red Has 10 Chapters in Wisconsin

## John Birch Society Numbers 150 to 200 Members; Growth Puzzles Officials

By ALEX P. DOBISH  
Of The Journal Staff

Ten chapters of the John Birch society, founded by a man who believes that President Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist, have formed in Wisconsin in the last year.

The ostensible purpose of the society is to fight communism and influence American politics. Its members include such leading citizens as William J. Grede, Milwaukee industrialist.

Four branches have been formed in Milwaukee and one each in Wauwatosa, Green Bay, De Pere, Oshkosh, Appleton and Eagle River.

### Retired Manufacturer

Mrs. John Rueber, 3014 S. Delaware av., the wife of a medical technician, is the Milwaukee area "co-ordinator." Richard Johnson, Green Bay, an accountant, is in charge of up-state activities.

The founder of the society is a wealthy, retired candy manufacturer, who lives in Belmont, Mass. He is Robert H. W.

Welch, jr., 61, a persuasive speaker, conservative and the author of "The Politician."

"The Politician" is a manuscript of 302 pages which has been privately reproduced in book form by the photo-offset process. Leaders of the society have received copies from Welch with the admonition that the contents are "strictly confidential and for your eyes only."

The book tries to prove that Mr. Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscientious agent of the Communist party.

It claims that Mr. Eisenhower's brother, Milton, is the president's superior in the party and that a dozen other highly placed government men are either outright Communists or tools of the party.

### Claims Presidents "Used"

Former President Roosevelt, the book says, was unknowingly used by the party. Ex-President Truman was knowingly used, it continues. As for President Eisenhower, page 268 reads:

"In my own opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

Welch, Johnson and Mrs. Rueber deny that the book is

used at meetings. Group leaders like Johnson and Mrs. Rueber have copies, however.

Neither Johnson nor Mrs. Rueber would disavow the contents of "The Politician." Mrs. Rueber said she had not reached a conclusion, adding: "I am not obligated to explain my personal conclusion, if I have reached one, to anybody."

### Curious About Book

She wanted to know where The Milwaukee Journal had obtained a copy since the book was not supposed to be seen by "ordinary" society members or outsiders.

"Someone," she said, "broke a confidence."

Johnson said he shared the bulk of Welch's views, but shied away from hanging a Communist label on the president.

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"I only know that if he is not, he might as well be," he said. "It is a moot question. The results of his administration are the same."

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Turn to page 26, column 1

The Milwaukee Journal

Milwaukee, wisconsin

July 31, 1960

J. DONALD FERGUSON, President & Editor

JSW

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# Milwaukee Has Four John Birch Groups

From page 1, column 7

society nationally or in what states chapters had been organized. He said organization was going "nicely in Wisconsin," adding that Wisconsin was a "good, conservative state."

Asked if he still held the views expressed in "The Politician," he said he would not comment.

On his letterhead inviting selected persons to join, Welch lists two other Wisconsin industrialists, besides Grede, as members of the society's national council.

They are E. P. Hamilton, Two Rivers, president of the Hamilton Manufacturing Co., maker of washing machines, dryers and office and drafting equipment, and Cola B. Parker, Neenah, former chairman of the board of Kimberly-Clark Corp.,

paper manufacturer. Both were out of town and could not be reached for comment.

## Membership Confirmed

Grede confirmed that he was a council member. He said he didn't think Mr. Eisenhower was a Communist and said he had no comment about the book.

Welch describes the society in the "Blue Book," which he also wrote and which is distributed more widely among members than "The Politician."

"The men who join the John Birch society . . . are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway," he wrote.

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ever and wherever, either through infiltration by the enemy or honest differences of opinion, that loyalty ceases to be sufficient to keep some fragment in line, we are not going to be in the position of having the society's work weakened by raging debates.

## Opposes Factions

"We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme. Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out."

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phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

The society is named after John Birch, an American army captain and fundamentalist Baptist minister, who allegedly was murdered by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J day. The society was founded by Welch on Dec. 9, 1958, in Indianapolis, with the support of a small group of businessmen.

## Started in 1959

In Milwaukee the society began late in 1959 after Welch gave a privately attended talk here.

Mrs. Rueber's reason for organizing the first branch, she said, was:

"I couldn't sit back and wait for someone else to do it. Communism had been winning for some time."

She wrote to Welch saying

that she was interested, and received instructions on how to organize and other necessary material. She knows Welch personally.

"I consider him a fine man," she said.

Mrs. Rueber said two chapters were on the east side, two on the south side and a fifth in Wauwatosa. Meetings usually were in private homes. She declined to say where meetings were held or when the next one will be. She said the press could not attend.

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## Movies Are Utilized

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